

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/535,313	SAKURAI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Thong Q. Nguyen	2872

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the amendment of 8/29/06 and Interview of 8/30/06.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 10-14 which are renumbered as claims 1-5.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

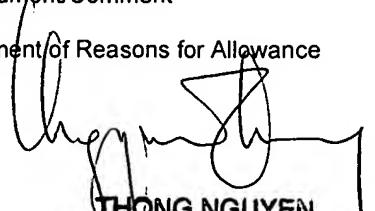
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 8/30/06.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.


THONG NGUYEN
 PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The present Office action is made in response to the amendment filed on 8/29/2006 and the Interview on 8/30/2006.
2. It is noted that in the amendment of 8/29/06, applicant has amended claims 10-14 and canceled claims 8-9. There is not any new claim to be added into the application. Also note that claims 1-7 were canceled by the applicant on 5/17/05. The remaining claims 10-14 are examined in this Office action.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas C. Basso on 8/30/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

- a) *In claim 13: on line 13, changed "conversion" to --another--, and on line 14, changed "lends" to --lens--; and*
- b) *In claim 14: on line 12, changed "conversion" to --another--, and on line 13, changed "lends" to --lens--.*

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 10-14 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
 - a) The image pickup apparatus as recited in present claim 11 is patentable with respect to the cited art, in particular, the Japanese reference No. 6-51386 and 2000-180918 and the U.S. Patent Nos. 2,291,821 and 4,909,617 by the limitations related to the cap detachably attached to the opening of the dowser of the tubular portion of the lens hood. It is noted that the use of a lens cap detachably attached to a lens hood is disclosed in the art as can be seen in the Japanese reference No. 2000-180918 and the U.S. Patent No. 4,909,617; however, the art does not disclose an image pickup system having a lens hood comprises a base portion for mounting to an optical system; a tubular portion detachably coupled to the base portion wherein the tubular portion comprises a dowser having an opening; a lens contained inside the lens hood and a cap detachably attached to the opening of the dowser as claimed.
 - b) The image pickup apparatus as recited in the present claim 13 is patentable with respect to the cited art, in particular, the Japanese reference No. 6-51386 and the U.S. Patent Nos. 5,313,329 and 3,614,196 by the limitations related to the tubular portion of the lens hood. It is noted that while the use of a lens hood having a dowser and supporting a lens system is disclosed in the Japanese reference No. 6-51386 and the mentioned U.S. Patents; however, the cited art does not disclose that the dowser of the tubular portion is in a biased state in an

optical axis and the tubular portion can be detachably coupled to the base portion irrespectively of whether the dowser is positioned close to the optical system or in a position apart from the optical system, and the conversion lens is located inside the lens hood when the dowser is in the position apart from the optical system as claimed.

c) The image pickup apparatus as recited in the present claim 14 is patentable with respect to the cited art, in particular, the Japanese reference No. 6-51386 and the U.S. Patent Nos. 5,313,329 and 3,614,196 by the limitations related to the tubular portion of the lens hood. It is noted that while the use of a lens hood having a dowser and supporting a lens system is disclosed in the Japanese reference No. 6-51386 and the mentioned U.S. Patents; however, the cited art does not disclose that the dowser of the tubular portion is in a biased state in an optical axis and the tubular portion can be detachably coupled to the base portion irrespectively of whether the dowser is positioned close to the optical system or in a position apart from the optical system, and the conversion lens is not mounted inside the lens hood when the dowser is in the position close to the optical system as claimed.

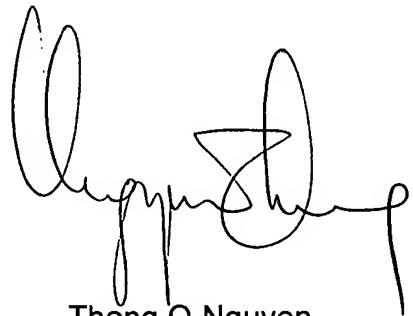
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thong Q. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2316. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew A. Dunn can be reached on (571) 272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Thong Q. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2872
